

U.S.S.N. 10/647,979
Docket No. 133976-1

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REMARKS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 16 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by US 5,705,713 to Chambers, *et al.* It is believed that the rejection is now moot, as claim 16 is cancelled herewith, and claim 24 is amended to depend from claim 18.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 16, 18, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Chambers and US Patent No. 5,264,570 to Johnson, *et al.*

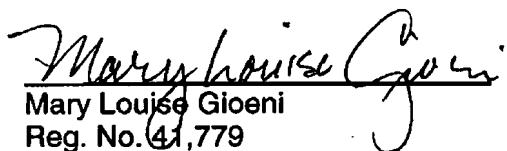
Chambers teaches a process for preparation of fluoro compounds wherein a compound of formula R^1R^2CHOX is converted to its fluorinated analog (col. 1, lines 65-clo. 2, line 5). The product may be "separated, e.g. by filtration, and purified in the usual way" (col. 4, lines 55-65). Example 1 describes a preparation of 2-fluoro-1,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl- α -D-ribofuranose wherein the product is precipitated from the reaction mixture without further purification. Johnson relates to a method for synthesizing 2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose by contacting 1,2,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-2-O-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-2-deoxy- β -D-mannose with ^{18}F ion and deprotecting (col. 2, lines 55-67).

Claim 18 is now amended to specify that the imaging agent has "solubility that differentiates the compound from the imaging agent", and that the imaging agent is separated from the compound via that differential solubility. Neither Chambers nor Johnson mentions using differential solubility to separate the starting material from the fluorinated product, or describe any process for doing so. In fact, the need for an improved method for purifying the product is not recognized in either reference. Accordingly, combining the references would not result in the claimed method. Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case has not been established with respect to the claims as amended. It is believed that the rejection is overcome.

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Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of claims 18, 20 and 24 in light of the above remarks is respectfully requested. Examiner Schlientz is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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